

# HI-Q

## The LARC Journal

Volume 61

January 1995

Issue 601



### CLUB REPEATERS

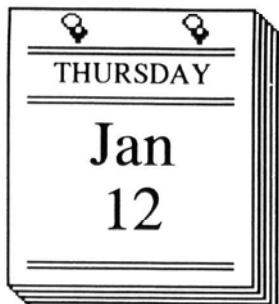
#### VE3TBR

Phone: 767-7661  
Listen: 146.82 MHz  
Txmit: 146.22 MHz

#### VE3YQT

Phone: 767-5492  
Listen: 147.06 MHz  
Txmit: 146.46 MHz

### NEXT MEETING



7:30 p.m., Room 245  
McIntyre Building  
Confederation College

## Still Fine Tuning...

Well, I'm still playing around with the new *HI-Q* format. Hopefully, this issue has some improvements over my first attempt last month.

A new year is upon us. I hope that everyone had a most enjoyable holiday and didn't overdo it too much. Let's hope that 1995 will bring everyone prosperity, happiness and a new 50 foot tower with a 6 element beam!

For those of the club members who aren't RAC members, 1995 could bring a few surprises for you. The federal government will be turning over jurisdiction of tower installations to the local municipalities. Also, any present tower installations whose falling arc would come into contact with primary hydro lines may have to be moved to comply with the Ontario Hydro code.

EMCAB-2 may or may not see the light of day depending upon how successful RAC can lobby the federal government. If you haven't sent a written protest to your MP and the Minister responsible for Industry Canada, why haven't

you? It's free postage. Use it or lose it!

The Nordic World Ski Championships are coming up fast. As the host city, I hope that all club members have been promoting the Nordics on the radio and promoting the Thunder Bay Voyageur Award. too.

To those amateurs that don't have HF privileges yet, better work on that code. The member nations of ITU have extended the requirement for HF operators to have a proficiency in Morse code-at least until the next century!-Ed.

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# Class Report

BY ED, VE3SNW

Ham classes are well underway. Basic exam. If you do understand all of it, NASA is looking for you us over the last couple of weeks. ;-).

Although the class is not as large as last years, it's a good size. As usual, everyone is still a little shy and reluctant to ask questions. They are also reluctant to come out for coffee, so the rest of the amateur community hasn't met many of them yet (except for Gerry).

As you may know, we are using a new textbook, in that elusive search for a perfect book. We were using *Talk to the World* but that was too simplistic and neglected some topics necessary for the examinations. The new book, *Amateur Radio for Beginners*, is extremely complete and is probably suitable right through to the advanced levels. It also contains the question bank and the questions are sorted and placed behind the relevant chapters.

However, some problems must have occurred during printing, as some of the answer keys are be incorrect. Before you mark your book, make sure the answers are right! So far, we (mostly VE3AVS), have checked up to chapter 6 and have found that the answer key to chapter 5 is wrong. As I mentioned, some of the friends, we welcome you to our material in the book is very advanced, so don't be too concerned if you don't comprehend parts of it. Check with me and I'll let you know if it's relevant to the

If you are looking for some non-technical amateur material to read, I would like to recommend some of the fiction works available from the ARRL via RAC. I've just finished reading those lent to me by Ian, VA3RIM and found them all very enjoyable. If you want to take a gander at them, get in touch with Ian and I'm sure that you will enjoy them as much as I did. Some of the titles are *Murder by QRM*, *Grand Canyon QSO* and *Hostage in the Woods*.

In class, we have just finished looking at DC circuits. We have covered voltage, current and resistance, Ohm's Law, capacitors and inductors. We touched on power supplies and have delved into reactance and resonance.

All amateurs are invited to sit in on classes but expect to be questioned about your involvement in the hobby! This is important so that our new friends can see the broad scope of our hobby. Please bring your HT or anything else that you wish to show off. Demonstrations are always welcome.

Lastly, to the new students and us in the restaurants and coffee shops and especially at the club meetings. Half the fun of amateur radio is meeting other hams!

# 2 Metres To The Rescue!

BY WAYNE, VA3LOG

We started off for town on December 29th. We live where the payment ends in East Pearson. Heading out on highway 588, my engine started to smoke, sputter and died on the side of the road.

The nearest farmhouse was at least 2 km away. But, glory be! I had my 2 metre radio with me. I called a friend via the auto patch, explained my situation and soon had transportation for the XYL and the 2 small children with us.

One can only guess at the outcome in -20C temperatures! From that experience, I quickly picked up a spare battery pack and charger as well as a 3 element beam and repeater directory. For the truck, I purchased a new starter, radiator and rebuilt motor. All for the price of a new HF rig, hi, hi. Moral of the story: "I wouldn't walk a mile without my HT!"

#### FOR SALE

YAESU FRG8800 HF RCVR-  
DIGITAL READOUT-  
KEYBOARD ENTRY PAD-  
BUILT IN CLOCK-AM, LSB,  
USB, CW, FM RECEPTION-  
NARROW, WIDE FILTERS-  
WITH MANUALS  
ASKING \$450  
CONTACT LAURIE,  
VE3BCD, 807-622-1628

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# Meeting Minutes

BY NORM, VE3XRC

Minutes of a meeting of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club held in Room 245 at Confederation College, Thunder Bay, Ontario on December 8, 1994.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the President, VE3TKA, Terry Stewardson with 30 members and guests in attendance.

## Minutes Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held November 10, 1994 were published in the December edition of *HI-Q* and mailed to all members. **Motion:** Moved by VE3RVA, Bob Hansen and seconded by VE3AJ, Bill Klemacki that the minutes be accepted as printed. **Carried.**

## Correspondence

Bulletins that would be of use to the *HI-Q* editor were made available for members to look at.

A letter from VE3ARN, Bill Roberts who recently moved to British Columbia was read. He thanked VA3RIM, Ian Mellis for the article on himself that appeared in a recent issue of *HI-Q*.

## Treasurer's Report

VE3BBS, Skip Wright reported the annual 1994-1995 financial statement as of December 8, 1994 as follows:

<b>Balance as of November 10, 1994:</b>	\$3,177.71
<b>Expenses:</b>	\$1,446.47
<b>Income:</b>	\$1,823.60

**Balance as of December 8, 1994:** \$3,554.84

**Motion:** Moved by VE3JAB, Bob Bishop and seconded by VE3KV, Len Catillo that the Treasurer's report be accepted. **Carried.**

## President's Report VE3TKA,

Terry Stewardson

**Link to Grand Marais** VE3TKA, Terry Stewardson, VE3BBS, Skip Wright and VA3GD, Pat Doherty did some antenna tests at St. Joseph's Heritage in 80 km per hour wind. We will put the link up at this location on a temporary basis and hook it into the VE3TBR controller. Most of the time, we will be able to get through to Grand Marais without any trouble.

**HI-Q VA3ROM**, Bob Mazur has done a great job on his first edition of *HI-Q* considering the short notice he had after volunteering to be the editor.

**Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC)** The members were informed that VE3JAB, Bob Bishop has been elected a RAC director for Northern and Northwestern Ontario. Bob thanked those who were on his unsolicited election committee.

## Other Reports

**2m Contest** VE3BBS, Skip Wright noted that the rules for the 2m contest running for the month of December were published in the December issue of *HI-Q*.

**Insurance Survey** An insurance survey was published in the last edition of *The Canadian Amateur*. This is just a survey to find out if amateurs are interested in obtaining special insurance on amateur radio gear and there no costs involved

**Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC)** VE3JAB, Bob Bishop brought us up-to-date on the highlights of RAC. RAC is gearing up to host the IRU convention in Canada during the summer of 1995. The organization is struggling to increase its membership and is working on interference problems. (referring to EMCAB-2?-Ed.)

## Old Business

**Foundation** VA3GD, Pat Doherty and VE3UA, Jim O'Brien have met with lawyer Bob Mullen to discuss setting up a foundation which will be at arms length from the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club. A foundation with educational aspects may be eligible to receive charitable donation status.

## New Business

**1994-1995 Budget** VE3BBS, Skip Wright presented the proposed 1994-1995 budget to the members. This is a balanced budget.

VE3UA, Jim O'Brien suggested that subscriptions to 3 publications to help out the *HI-Q* editor be included in the budget. **Motion:** Moved by VE3AJ, Bill Klemacki

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**Meeting Minutes continued**  
from page 3...

and seconded by VA3LOG, Wayne Hutsul that the budget be accepted as presented. **Carried.** **Motion:** Moved by VA3GD, Pat Doherty and seconded by VE3AJ, Bill Klemacki that the LARC subscribe to the 3 publications mentioned above to help the *HI-Q* editor. **Carried.**

**Thunder Bay Museum** Some amateur radio equipment was donated to the Thunder Bay Museum. The equipment belonged to Charlie Macdonald's father and he asked the LARC, if interested, to write a letter to the museum offering the help of the LARC to set up a proper display for the equipment. It was the consensus of the members to have the President write the museum.

**New Ontario Hydro Code** VE3RVA, Bob Hansen pointed out that there are new rules regarding the erection of antenna towers in the proximity of hydro primary lines. These rules will take effect January 1, 1995. The Ontario Electrical Safety Code has a page on amateur radio. Bob is presently

working on getting permission to copy this section from Ontario Hydro.

**Talk To The World** The LARC is using a new manual for the ham classes. The club has 4 copies of *Talk To The World* and would like to donate them to the Thunder Bay Library.

**Membership Numbers** VE3UA, Jim O'Brien asked how many members the club had. VE3BBS, Skip Wright did not have the total on hand but estimated 140-150 members. VE3TKA, Terry Stewardson will print up a membership list for the January meeting. Jim wanted to go on record as opposing the mailing of *HI-Q* to non-paid up members as specified in the club's bylaws.

**Adjournment**

**Motion:** Moved by VE3ICY, Glen Wallace that the meeting be adjourned. **Carried.**

**50/50 Draw**

The winner of the 50/50 draw was VE3BBS, Skip Wright. (A first after all these years, according to Skip.-Ed.)

**Home-made CW Key Contest**

There were 5 entries for the home-made CW key contest; VA3LOG, VE3AJ, VA3LEB, VE3EFC and VE3TKA. The judges were VA3GD and VE3KV. When the dust had settled, the winner of the *Workmanship Category* was VE3AJ, Bill Klemacki and the winner of the *Innovation Category* was VA3LOG, Wayne Hutsul.

# Wayne's (5 wpm) World

On December 13, 1994, Wayne, VA3WRL informed me that he had passed his 5 wpm code test. This means that Wayne now enjoys HF privileges on the 160 and 80 metre bands and it didn't take him that long after got his Basic license to do it either!

I invited Wayne up to the Coast Guard Radio and, in the early hours of December 15th, he had his first HF and CW QSO with Tom, N5MPM (notice something about the call sign, Wayne?) in Fort Worth, Texas. The signal conditions weren't too good but Tom sent his congratulations to Wayne on his new code ticket.

Needless to say, Wayne didn't appreciate the way that he was thrown into the radio waves so abruptly by yours truly, hi, hi. He kept saying "I just came here to listen! I just came here to listen!" But, he did a fine job and he has a very good fist. Once the initial CW on-air jitters fade away, I'll bet anyone that Wayne will become one of those 30 wpm brass-pounders in a few years.

Congratulations, Wayne! In a few months, you will pass the 12 wpm code test and get full HF radio privileges. Enjoy yourself and have a lot of fun. That's the main idea of amateur radio.-Ed.

**FOR SALE**  
HEATHKIT HW99 CW  
XCVR-10, 15, 20, 40  
METRES-  
WITH MANUALS  
ASKING \$200  
CONTACT DON, VE3EDT,  
807-683-5843

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# Radio Log

BY SKIP, VE3BBS

**Public Service** The I-500, the snowmobile race from Thunder Bay to Minneapolis, is scheduled to start on Tuesday, January 17. Because this event is taking place on a weekday, the organizers were informed that the LARC would not be able to provide coverage as we had in the past.

Their prime concern is the Canadian fuel stop, which must be covered, a net control station and a station at Devon Road, just before the border crossing point. We are trying to enlist the aid of some US amateurs in Grand Marais to help out.

If you are available on race day, please get in touch with me. Race start is 10:00 a.m. and we should finish up around 4 p.m., at the latest, on the Canadian side. Mobile rigs will be required for this event.

**Nordics** The Jeep Eagle Nordic combined event takes place on the first weekend of February 1995. We have been asked by the Nordic organizers to set up a net control station for the event. This will enable us to work out any problems prior to the Ski Championships in March.

There is a great deal of work to be done. Requests are coming through for any computers, wiring and general assistance that the LARC can provide.

The LARC is applying for a special prefix call sign during the month of March. Industry Canada

has not advised us yet as to what prefix will be assigned.

Most of the training for Nordic volunteers is completed. But, if you missed it, not to worry. There will be training sessions held in February. Accreditation (security checks) will take place in February, also. You must be accredited. You will not be allowed on site without your security pass!

**2 Metre Contest** If you entered the 2m contest, make sure that your logs are handed in either at the January meeting or, at the latest, by January 15. The winners of the FM and SSB contests will be announced at the Annual Dinner in February. *Club members who don't already have the Voyageur Award, should include \$2.00 with their 2m log submissions. As long as you worked 5 Thunder Bay amateurs, you qualify for the award. This is a great way to show your support for the LARC, the Voyageur Award and make a contribution to the "Irkutsk Fund." Ed, this would be a great first award for the new ham students to go for, too!-Ed.*

**Voyageur Award** The rules for the Thunder Bay Voyageur Award are now being mailed out with Nordic QSL cards to all North American amateurs. The Nordics have been paying for the postage of any Nordics QSL cards that we send world-wide. So, if you hear a station wanting to work Thunder

Bay, jump in there! Five contacts is that is required, along with a copy of their radio log with call signs, dates/ times and frequencies. Send the log along with \$2.00 to: The LARC • Awards Manager • PO Box 2571 • Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7B 5G1 • Canada.

## 1994 Canada Winter Contest

By this time, the 1994 Canada Winter Contest will have come and gone. I hope that we all survived and good luck to all those who entered. This has to be one of the friendliest and most enjoyable contests that is around today. It is run twice a year on July 1st and usually on the last weekend in December. If you want to get involved in July, get a hold of Norm, VE3XRC or myself. We will be happy to supply contest forms and explain the contest to you.

**The John Beargrease 500** This is the dog sled race from Duluth to Grand Portage and return. The race is running January 7-12. If you would like to help us out with control at check point, Grand Portage, give me a call. We will provide all the equipment required. All you need is your Basic license.

**NW Ontario ARES Net** With the conditions on 80m being what they have been over the past few weeks, we have been using the services provided by Tim, VE3WCT. Tim simulcasts the HF Net on 147.500 MHz which can be heard on scanners and 2m radios. On a couple of occasions, hams

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**Radio Log continued from  
Insert A...**

calling in a 2m have been picked up at Trout Lake (my QTH) and then responded to on 3750 kHz.

If you wish to hear the NW Ontario ARES Net, tune into 147.500 MHz. It is run every night, 365 days a year, at 0115 UTC or 2015 local time. Key up the good work, Tim!

Not being the packeteer that some of the guys in town are, I am looking for a Net Control operator to run a test on packet for ARES. The Bruce Country ARES group runs a packet net on VHF in the conference mode.

Anyone willing to take on the responsibilities of Net Control, one night a week (not Monday), in the evening, please give me a call. Of course, the 2m FM mini-net will still continue on YQT at 1900 local time. General check-ins and local items of interest as well as the Swap 'n Shop are handled during the hour.

The Swap 'n Shop is also available from Terry, VE3TKA on his packet/BBS system. It is updated every Monday night after the mini-net. If you have any items to list, get a hold of me and we will see that it gets out on packet and aired during the mini-net. The packet messages go to Fort Frances, Kenora, Dryden Thunder Bay and North Bay. If you sell or swap any item let me know so that it can be removed from the list.

**Gary, VE3CK** Got a note from Gary, ex-VE3CK, who is now VA2CK in Alymer, Quebec. He

and the XYL are doing fine. Gary has checked into the NW Ontario Net on a couple of occasions and send his 73's to all those hams in Thunder Bay and area. Gary is loading his eaves trough for an antenna!

**New 5 wpm Sparkers** Congratulations go to Wayne, VA3WRL and Randy, VA3GOT for passing their 5 wpm code tests in December! They now enjoy HF privileges on 160 and 80 metres.

The LARC has the Advanced study guides along with the question banks for those amateurs wishing to enhance their Basic qualifications. *Apparently, you don't need a Morse code endorsement to write your Advanced license test anymore. Also, Randy, could you please write up a little article about your Morse code trials and tribulations and share them with the other non-code license holders.—Ed.*

**Radiograms** We have developed a RADIOGRAM message form with the LARC logo on it. These are free to anyone who wants them. We can supply the original copy and you can make additional copies from this master. This form makes formal message handling a snap!

**Club Certificates and Endorsements** Skip and I discussed a few items which may be of interest to club members. We are playing with the idea of setting up a member profile database which you would fill out every

**FOR SALE**  
A4 GREY SCALE HAND  
SCANNER-WITH SOFTWARE-  
MANUALS-INSTRUCTIONS  
ASKING \$150  
CONTACT LAURIE, VE3BCD,  
807-622-1628

time your LARC membership was renewed. We would like to award members with certificates for their achievements in amateur radio. These may include: Public Service Radio work, years licensed as an amateur, educational work in amateur radio, work that has contributed to the advancement of the hobby, etc.

As well, we are designing a club membership certificate and endorsement stickers to note your affiliation with the LARC. Each year, you would receive a membership renewal sticker to put on your certificate. The cost involved is very low. We already have a club seal and the computer equipment required to produce certificates.

These can be discussed at the January meeting. Please give some thought to these suggestions and then feel free to add some of your own. Also any other ideas that you may have in the back of your mind.

To you and yours, all the best in 1995! 73, Skip.

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# The Voyageur Award

BY NORM, VE3XRC

Two years ago, the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club in co-operation with the City of Thunder Bay, introduced the Thunder Bay Voyageur Award. This award was designed not only for Thunder Bay radio amateurs but for amateurs around the world.

To receive this award, all one has to do is work 5 Thunder Bay hams, on any band and mode. A \$2.00 fee is charged for the award and all money derived has been slated for the "Irkutsk Fund."

Send a copy of your radio log with \$2.00 to:

LARC  
Awards Manager  
PO Box 2571  
Thunder Bay, ON  
P7B 5G1 Canada

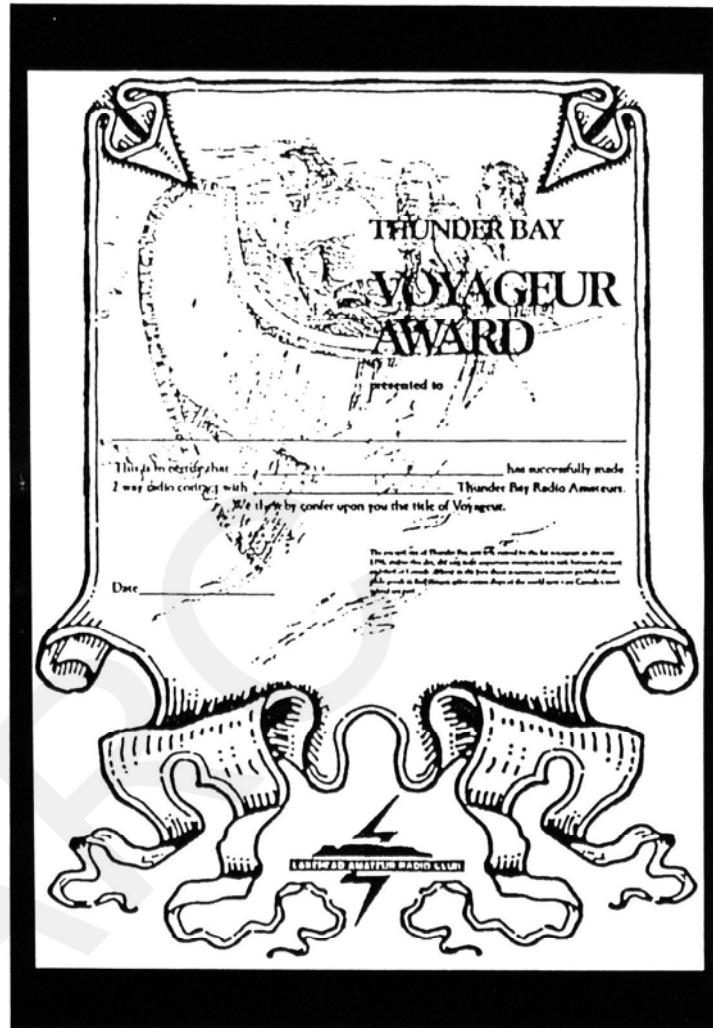
Thunder Bay amateurs, do your part and promote the award when you are on the air.

*Ine, VE3OTV, the new net organizer for the award, and I feel that it should also be available to SWLers and scanner enthusiasts.*

**FOR SALE**  
HEATHKIT ACTIVE  
AUDIO FILTER-MODEL  
HD1418  
ASKING \$95  
CONTACT LEO, VE3XT,  
807-344-3088

*The award is now advertised on the 2m net. We will see what the response is from non-amateurs. We are also discussing the setting up of a 20m net that would run for an hour or so on a Sunday. We need at least 5 call signs on the air for 20 metres. We want to keep Norm, VE3XRC, the awards manager, very busy in the New Year!*

*If anyone has any other ideas on how to promote the Voyageur Award, please pass it on to Ine. We need real club participation. Use your radio for good cause.—Ed.*



## Non-RAC Members

BY SKIP, VE3BBS

If you have made up your mind to join our Canadian National Amateur Radio organization, (Radio Amateurs of Canada) and you are a member of the LARC, please contact John, VE3GTX either on packet, phone or 2 metres. He has the forms and can get your signed up immediately.

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Support and protect your hobby—join today.*

# Hydro & Ham Radio

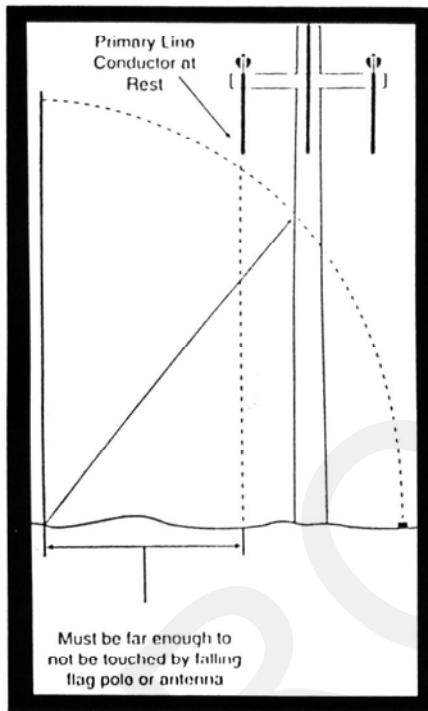
The revised Ontario Hydro Code takes effect in January 1995. I am paraphrasing the section of the Code referring to radio amateurs. If you have any questions regarding the Code contact Hydro.-Ed.

## Lightening Arresters

Lightening arresters for each lead-in conductor shall be used at the point of entry into your building except where the lead-in is protected by a continuous metal shield between the antenna and the point of entry into the building or where the antenna is grounded.

## Grounds

The grounding conductor shall be copper, aluminium alloy, copper-clad steel, bronze or other corrosion-resistant material. The grounding conductor may be uninsulated. It must be securely fastened in place. It must be protected where exposed to mechanical injury. It shall be run in as straight a line as possible between the lightening arrester or antenna mast or both to the grounding electrode. It shall be connected to a grounding electrode. The grounding conductor may be run either inside or outside the building. A single ground may be used for protective and operating purposes but must be installed so that disconnecting the operating ground won't affect the protective ground circuit. Masts, metal support structures and antenna frames shall be grounded.



## Antenna Clearances from Primary Hydro Lines

The maximum clearance for an antenna is the distance that the antenna can fall, in an arc, without touching the primary conductors of a hydro line (usually the ones from pole to pole and not pole to house.). Refer to above diagram.

Since antennas or towers topple over like trees do, this new rule basically means, for example, if the primary hydro lines are 50 feet from the antenna or tower and the antenna or tower is 50 feet high, you may have to move the antenna or tower to comply with the Code. If your antenna or tower falls over, it most likely will hit the primary power lines. If you have any questions or doubts, call Hydro. They will be able to advise you accordingly.

## 1994/95 LARC

**Founding President**  
P.J. (Pat) O'Shea, VE3FW  
1991-1972

**Senate**  
Bill Roberts, VE3ARN  
Keith Fiske, VE3UQ  
Bert Lambert, VE3BKY  
Ray Greer, VE3CH  
Hugh Elliott, VE3EDW  
Bill Klemacki, VE3AJ

**Executive Board**  
President: Terry Stewardson, VE3TKA 577-9439  
Vice-Pres: Ed Baumann, VE3SNW 622-1216  
Secretary: Norm Bell, VE3XRC 577-9316  
Treasurer: Skip Wright, VE3BBS 767-2307  
Directors: Garry Michaluk, VE3GWT 475-7101  
Glen Wallace, VE3JCY 623-0135  
Len Catillo, VE3KV 473-9430

Membership Secretary: John Watson, VE3GTX 683-3199  
Past President: Mark Vukovich, VE3VUK 345-5856  
HI-Q Editor: Robert Mazur, VA3ROM 344-7731

## Voyageur Award

The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club, in co-operation with the City of Thunder Bay, is offering the Thunder Bay Voyageur Award to any station working at least 5 Thunder Bay amateurs. The award is an attractive 8.5" x 11" parchment scroll, truly a complement to any radio shack.

Please send your log of Thunder Bay amateurs with dates, times and frequencies and \$2.00 to the Awards Manager at the club address below.

## Club and Newsletter Information

HI-Q is published September through June by the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club Inc. (LARC), an Ontario registered, non-profit corporation. The opinions or viewpoints expressed or implied in HI-Q are those of the contributing authors. The LARC, HI-Q or its editor assume no responsibility for the accuracy of the information submitted. Material in HI-Q may be copied for non-profit use by the amateur radio community, provided that credit is given to the author(s) and source(s).

Contributions related to amateur radio, in particular those articles of interest to Northwestern Ontario amateurs, are encouraged. Material may either be submitted in the form of manuscripts with drawings or photographs on disk in either WordPerfect® 5.1/6.0 or ASCII text file format. Please use GIF, PCX or TIFF formats for graphic images (black and white preferred).

Mail your articles to: The HI-Q Editor • 82 Lawrence Avenue • Thunder Bay ON • P7A 6X6 • Canada or fax 807-345-2688. Files may be submitted via packet to: VA3ROM # VE3TKA.#NON.ON.CAN.NA.

Send your dated announcements no later than 10 days prior to the first day of the month in which the notice is to appear.

To reduce production and distribution costs, HI-Q accepts advertising at the following per issue rates: full page—\$60.00, 1/2 page—\$40.00, 1/4 page—\$20.00 and 1/8 page—\$15.00. Reduced rates (1/3 off) available upon receipt of advance payment for 10 issues (one full year). Send your "camera-ready" copy and cheque (payable to LARC) to the club address below.

Advertising material that appears in HI-Q does not imply either an endorsement nor a recommendation of the product or service by the LARC, HI-Q or its editor.

LARC membership fees, determined annually, are set for 1994-1995 as follows: Regular—\$30.00, Associate—\$20.00, Associate (attending ham classes)—\$80.00, Student (attending school full-time)—\$15.00 and Family—\$30.00 plus \$10.00 for each additional family member at the same address.

HI-Q is distributed to all LARC members, except that only 1 copy is sent to each address.

In honour of the memory of our founding President, Mr. P.J. (Pat) O'Shea, the club call sign is VE3FW.

The LARC owns and operates 2 VHF repeaters, VE3TBR 146.82(-) located atop St. Joseph's Heritage and VE3YQT 147.06(-) on Mount Baldy.

The club mailing address is: The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club Inc. • PO Box 2571 • Thunder Bay ON • P7B 5G1 • Canada.

**The LARC is a member of the Radio Amateurs of Canada**  
**Support and protect your hobby—join today.**

# Personality Of The Month

Hugh Elliott, VE3EDW

*On August 27, 1994, Hugh Elliott, at the age of 83, was made a Life Member the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club.*

Hugh was born on May 11, 1911 and raised in Port Arthur, Ontario (now Thunder Bay). He spent his first year of high school at Port Arthur Collegiate Institute. However, his father, a bank messenger, insisted that Hugh learn a trade. So, in 1928, he transferred to Port Arthur Technical School (now Hillcrest High School) and enrolled in the electrical program.

The Elliott family did not have an AM radio, so Hugh, at 17 or 18, built a 3 tube TRF radio on one end of an apple box with the power supply on the other end. As Hugh was stringing the antenna, his sister, apparently with nothing better to do, turned on the radio. They could not believe their ears; CKPR came in loud and clear!

Hugh went on to build many more radio and transmitters from collected parts and later moved on to kit building. An interest in Morse code developed and Hugh built a telegraph key because he could not afford to buy one. Eventually, he gave it to the Thunder Bay Museum.

During high school, Hugh had a weekend job at Eaton's Department Store erecting antennas for people who bought radios there. He remembers covering both Port Arthur and Fort



William on his bicycle while carrying his extension ladder! One incident that Hugh says he will never forget was the time he was in the Westfort area of Fort William. When he had finished putting up an antenna he went to get his bike. Someone had let the air out of both tires. Without an air pump, he had to push his bike and balance his ladder all the way back to Port Arthur. Hugh worked at Eaton's for 2 years and was paid \$2.50 per day.

After graduating, Hugh got a summer job with Ontario Hydro and worked with a survey gang at the Alexander Development on the Nipigon River.

In 1934, Hugh's father fell from a ladder. Complications developed and he died from a ruptured appendix. Hugh was asked to take over his father's job as a bank messenger at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce on the corner of Cumberland Street and Red River Road. As a bank messenger, Hugh was expected to

do janitorial work and act as a collection agent for the bank. Hugh says that he got the job because the bank's furnace was the same as the one they had at home. He knew that the furnace's fire could not be allowed to go out otherwise an explosion could occur. One time, he was at home, upstairs and heard a loud thud come from the basement. Upon investigation, he found that the door of the furnace had been blown off!

Hugh earned \$75.00 per month as a bank messenger. He says that he could accept being "a glorified janitor" but he hated the collection end of the job. To pass the time, he worked on his Morse code and took a radio theory course from the Radio College of Canada. He bought a Heathkit and built a radio transmitter.

In 1939, Hugh joined the Canadian Air Force and was stationed, at first, in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia as a wireless electrical mechanic. Hugh was stationed in several different places along the Atlantic coast and even was sent up to Baffin Island. He was discharged in 1945 and Hugh says that they were probably glad to get rid of him because of his asthma.

Back again in Port Arthur, Hugh began working for Abitibi Woods doing electrical maintenance in the bush camps. This meant keeping the electrical generators functioning and making sure that the telephone system worked.

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**Personality Of The Month**  
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When the company moving from stationary bush camps to a mobile operation, Hugh was out of a job.

His next job was working underground at the Steeprock Mine in Atikokan, Ontario. He says that because of the continuous rain in the mine, they had to wear raincoats all the time. Hugh's asthma rebelled and he left after a year.

In 1948, Hugh began working at the Port Arthur General Hospital as a maintenance technician. It was during this time that Hugh joined the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club. He earned his Basic Radio License in 1965 and his Advanced in 1967. Hugh retired from the General

Hospital in 1972, after 28 years.

In retirement, Hugh worked at the 55 Plus Centre Radio Station. He still works in his garden and talks to the world on his radio. Hugh has been anchoring the COMSONT Net each Tuesday morning for the past 15 years.

In good physical condition, Hugh says that he would still climb his radio tower if there weren't so many "relatives" in the neighbourhood. So, he is going to let the "boys" in the LARC do it for him so he can keep "peace" in the family.

It was at this point that a smile came to Hugh's face as another memory surfaced and he launched into this story. While in the Airforce, stationed in Goose Bay, Labrador, the Army needed an

antenna tower fixed. The wooden tower was 65 feet high and spurs would be needed to climb it. Since the Army couldn't convince anyone to climb the pole for the exercise, the Airforce was approached to do the job.

Hugh volunteered and once he was up there, the OIC decided that the guy-wires should be adjusted as well because he wanted to get back to the wet canteen! Of course the pole began to go over with Hugh along for the ride! He reached the ground before the pole did and broke his foot. The OIC was demoted. Hugh, please leave your tower jobs to the LARC "boys" who need the experience.

We wish you and yours all the best of the season and a very happy and safe New Year!-Ian.

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